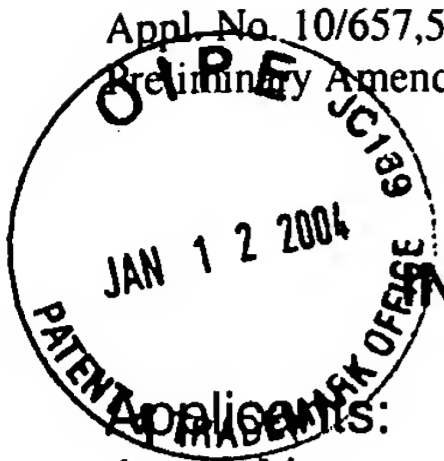


Appl. No. 10/657,588  
Preliminary Amendment



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Hughs-Baird, et al.  
Appl. No.: 10/657,588  
Filed: September 8, 2003  
Title: GAMING DEVICE HAVING AWARD POSITIONS WITH ASSOCIATED CHARACTERISTICS  
Art Unit: 3713  
Examiner: Unknown  
Docket No.: 0112300-1410

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 3 of this paper.